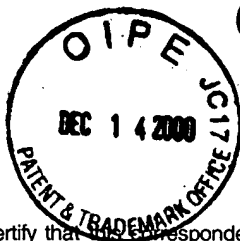


AFT 2754



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the correspondence and any documents indicated as being enclosed therein are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

Date: 12/11/2000

Stephanie Klepp
Printed Name: Stephanie Klepp

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

17/Resp
12/20/00
OK

In re application of:

YI-SHUNG CHAUG, et al.

Serial No.: 09/310,800

Filed: May 12, 1999

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SECURING A THIN FILM
MAGNETIC TAPE HEAD CLOSURE



Group Art Unit: 2754

Examiner: R. Tupper

Attorney Docket No. 96-017-TAX

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to an Office Action dated October 17, 2000, please amend the above identified patent application as follows:

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-14, and 16-30 are pending in this application. In an Office Action dated October 17, 2000, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, and 19-29; Claims 11-14, 16-18, and 30 were withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration of the claim rejection is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

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DEC 18 2000

Technology Center 2600

Serial No. 09/310,800,
Filed May 12, 1999

Attorney Docket No. 96-017-TAX

NOTED
RST

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10 and 19-29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsutaki (U.S. patent 5,022,140). Applicants traverse as follows.

The cited reference does not teach a multi-recording element head assembly that is operable for either reading or writing to a medium. As can be seen by Tsutaki's Figure 2E, this head structure is an intermediate (i.e. not completed or operational) structure that is not operable for either reading or writing to a medium. This intermediate head structure is subsequently cut along the dotted lines into a number of single element heads, a representative one being shown in Figure 1 (Tsutaki Col. 4, line 65 through Col. 5, line 2). It is only after the head has been cut is it operable to read and write from a medium. Once cut, and operational, the single element head does not read on the claimed invention. At best, the cited reference teaches a single element head that is operable to either read and write to a medium. As every element of the claimed invention is not taught by this reference, this reference does not anticipate the claimed invention. Hence, Claim 1 is shown to have been erroneously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsutaki (U.S. patent 5,022,140).

The Examiner states that the multiple head block shown in figures 3A-3F is operable to for either reading or writing. This cannot be so, as this is a head structure that is only partially constructed. As described above, it is subsequently cut up into a plurality of single element heads. Further, any attempt to use this structure to read and write a medium would be non-functional, as the adjoining heads would short one another out. Thus, the intermediate head structure of Figures 3A-3F is shown to not be operable for either reading or writing to a medium.

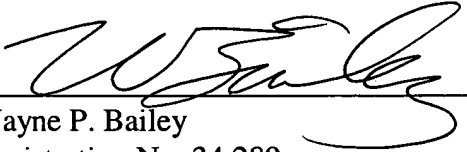
Applicants traverse the rejection of Claims 3-6, 8-10 and 19-29 for similar reasons to those given above with respect to Claim 1.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant has overcome all basis in the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, and 19-29. Accordingly, Applicant requests that (1) the rejection of such claims be withdrawn, (3) all pending claims be allowed, and (4) this case pass to issue. Should a phone conference be deemed by the Examiner to help expedite issuance of

this case, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the below listed phone number.

Respectfully submitted,
YI-SHUNG CHAUG

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Date: December 8, 2000
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